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INFORMATION PLEASE

By David Wells

Did you know that the Federal Poultry Products Inspection Act includes a voluntary inspection program for domestic meat rabbits, but does not cover pigeons, squabs, or other game birds?

Did you know that an area of some four counties in Northwest Arkansas has more poultry processing plants (26) than the combined total of several large, heavily populated states?

As Chairman of the Committee of the Work of the Department of the USDA Club of Dallas, I found out the above and several other things when I was recently privileged to visit the AREA INSPECTION BRANCH, POULTRY DIVISION, AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE, USDA, located in Room 405 of 708 Jackson Street Building, Dallas.

The first Federal Poultry Inspection was a voluntary program supplied in 1927 to a large soup company in the East, so that the Company's products could be exported to Canada. New York City was the first place in the U.S. to require that canned poultry products sold in that city be officially inspected. By the end of 1928, six plants were operating under the voluntary poultry inspection program. By the end of 1957, there were approximately 353 plants

operating under this voluntary program, with nearly 1 3/4 billion pounds of ready-to-cook poultry processed annually. That's a lot of drumsticks, lad, but since only about one of every three processing plants was participating in this program, it wasn't anywhere near the total poultry processed and consumed. The portion of poultry receiving inspection was merely a "pullet" and a lot of people thought it ought to be a "big fat hen". Consumers need protection against diseased or contaminated poultry and have a right to expect the poultry and poultry products they buy and eat to be wholesome and prepared under clean, sanitary conditions. Why not, say the chicken folks - the consumers of red meat have been receiving this protection for over 50 years.

The number of people who felt this way grew and grew until now the "big fat chicken" has replaced the "pullet". Officially, our more corpulent feathered friend is the Poultry Products Inspection Act, passed by the 85th Congress, Public Law 172 and signed by the President in August, 1957. The Act provides for the compulsory inspection of poultry and poultry products moving in interstate or foreign commerce, or in a designated major consuming area. All persons subject to the law must comply after January 1, 1959. "The Big Fat Hen" is going to require more of everything than did

the "Pullet", and this includes personnel. According to Dr. Roy E. Willie, Chief, Inspection Branch, Poultry Division, AMS, Washington, there were a total of 367 veterinarians and 354 lay inspectors assigned to the Inspection Branch as of August, 1958. After the Act becomes fully effective, the 900 plants which will be operating under inspection will require about 1200

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U.S.D.A. CLUB PLANS PARTY

Helen La Rosa, Chairman of the Entertainment Committee of the USDA Club, has announced plans for a Halloween party and dance to be held at the VFW Hall, 2115 Commerce Street, on October 31.

The entertainment will start at 7:00 p.m. and will include Bingo, Cake walking, and a Men's Cake Baking Contest. Dancing will start at 9:00 and music will be provided by the Jimmy Flemming Combo.

There will be a door prize of a 17-inch portable TV. Tickets for this drawing are available from your USDA Representative at 25¢ each or 5 for \$1.00. It is not necessary that you be present to win. The party will be free to all USDA Club members and their guests. * * *

Search thine heart. What paineth thee in others in thyself may be. All dust is frail, all flesh is weak. Be thou the true man thou doest seek.

TO YOUR
HEALTH

Thus far approximately 230 employees have been given influenza vaccine injections.

Whether or not you take the vaccine - REMEMBER: Health care is still needed as a defense against flu. Note the following suggestions for helping to keep in good physical condition.

1. Get enough rest. The number hours sleep required varies with the individual, but relaxation is needed, too.
2. Although over-exertion should be avoided, some exercise is important to good health.
3. Avoid drafts and becoming chilled. Dress for the weather - keep raincoats and shoes available. Watch room temperatures, as becoming too warm also can be harmful.
4. Proper diet is most important for building resistance to disease, and the Vitamin C is particularly essential. Lemons, grapefruit, and tomatoes are good sources of Vitamin C. Eating an orange a day is a good way of supplying this Vitamin also.
5. Finally, if symptoms of flu develop, such as chills and fever, generalized muscular aching, sore throat, cough, and pain in the chest. - GO TO BED AND CONSULT YOUR PHYSICIAN.

LETTERS TO
THE EDITOR

USDA CLUB:

I am very appreciative of your administration of psychological therapy not only to me, but, also, my parents during my mother's serious illness.

Your therapy was again wonderfully demonstrated upon the occasion of her birthday with a surprise shower of lovely gifts and cards.

Roy A. Hutchison

Dear Editor:

Once again all of us in the U. S. Department of Agriculture were given the opportunity of joining hands with the many thousands of other citizens in our community to help the less fortunate in the American way.

I wish to express my appreciation to my fellow employees for their personal contributions to carry on the invaluable work of the Community Chest during the recent drive.

Sincerely yours,

Charles H. Herndon
Community Chest
Representative
U.S. Department of
Agriculture

Dear Sir:

I wish to thank my co-workers for the visits, flowers, cards, and other remembrances during my convalescence.

Such remembrance strengthens the friendship and emphasizes the pleasure of working with people, such as you. Mildred Yeager

PREXY'S
CORNER

By Jerry Davis

Just the other day I was reading the Chicago USDA Club 35th Anniversary Booklet and came across Federal Creed of Service. In this present time of world and economic crises, I was glad I had the opportunity to reaffirm the advantages of Federal Employment. I am sure as you read this creed, you too will be glad that you are living and working in a country that has a Government in which the standards are unquestionable. Read this creed and think deeply of its meaning and I am sure that you too will be thankful.

FEDERAL CREED OF SERVICE

We are members of the Civil Service accept our obligation and our opportunity to serve the American people well and in full measure, doing our best to further the free and democratic institutions of our country.

We believe it is our duty to carry out loyally the will of the people as expressed in our laws.

Serve the public with fairness, courtesy, integrity, and understanding.

Help improve the efficiency, economy, and effectiveness of our work.

..And thus do our part in performing the great services of the Government.

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SAFETY NOTE: Be a good office "housekeeper" and prevent accidents. Serious falls can result from such articles as rubber bands,

DID YOU KNOW?

That unless your agency has a written promotion plan in effect by January 1, 1959, authority to make promotions will be withdrawn?

This is the result of a law recently passed by Congress placing responsibility with the Civil Service Commission to establish regulations governing promotions. These regulations require as a minimum the following inclusions in the written plans:

- Identification of jobs covered by the promotion plan.
- Definition of the area of consideration.
- Methods of locating candidates.
- Qualification standards which will apply to the promotion.
- Evaluation techniques to be used in rating and comparing candidates.
- Ranking and selection procedures to be used.
- Provisions for selection from among the best qualified employees.
- Release of employees selected for promotion.

You will be advised later as to the plan established by your agency and the procedures that will be followed in ranking people in their proper competitive areas for consideration for higher grade positions.

PERSONNEL--LY SPEAKING

Mr. Walter T. McKay, State Director of FHA became the proud Grandfather of Nancy Joan Knaggs on September 10, 1958. Nancy weighed in at 8 pounds and 3 ounces and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur J. Knaggs, Jr., of Austin, Texas. Congratulations to all!

The members of FHA wish to extend a hearty "Welcome Back" to Mrs. Bernice Phipps, who has returned to work after a very satisfactory recovery from her operation.

FHA also extends a welcome to Mrs. Dorothy Pollard of 3027 Fernwood, who joined our group on September 15.

Mr. Gus Hill, FHA, was half-way to work the other day when he was startled by the realization that he had left his false teeth at home! However, Someone Up There must like him, for he received no traffic tickets as he rushed home to get them.

Margaret Ford and Billie Tyson have enrolled in Southern Methodist University - pursuing a course in Traffic Management. Also, Mrs. Thelma Smith has enrolled for another term.

Mrs. Dorthy Llewellyn has reported back to work after undergoing surgery and a two months leave. We are glad to have her back.

Welcome to the Traffic Dept., Nina H. Hays, and

BEEF MAKES USDA OCTOBER PLENTIFUL FOODS LIST

Beef is on the U. S. Department of Agriculture's monthly plentiful foods list for the first time this year.

October supplies of beef will be seasonally large as feed cattle marketings increase and coincide with marketings of grass-fat cattle.

More feed cattle are expected at markets this Fall than a year ago, according to the Agricultural Marketing Service.

Broilers, fryers, cheese and apples have been designated as the foods to feature in October meals because they are in heavier than usual supply.

Three other meats -- hens, lamb and pork -- also have made USDA's plentiful list for this area.

Other October plentifuls include small and medium eggs, potatoes, honey, canned ripe olives and peanut butter.

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Ector C. McGuire, we are glad to have you newcomers.

Look who's back! OPAL CORNELIUS, who has been recuperating from an operation and extended illness, rejoined the GO Division on August 25. We are happy to see Opal back and looking so well.

PAT WIGGINS, CO Division, who has been on maternity leave, returned to her old desk on August 25. The first addition to her family is daughter, Janet Faye, born June 12.

INFORMATION PLEASE

employees as inspectors. The recruiting of these additional professional people is no simple matter, as veterinarians, like good nickel cigar, atomic scientists, and good defensive halfbacks, are not found on every corner. Inspectors with veterinary training begin at Grade GS-7 level; lay inspector trainees start at Grade GS-5. Most inspectors are resident to the plant they serve; supervisory veterinarians generally travel assigned areas, termed "circuits." The Dallas Area Inspection Office, headed by Dr. Kenneth M. McEnroe, covers the five-state block of Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and New Mexico. Area Offices are responsible for inspection operations within their geographical areas, for surveys of new plants which apply for inspection service, and for handling personnel and fiscal matters in their areas.

Earlier in this article I stated that compulsory inspection will be made in a designated major consuming area. Presently, the city of Dallas is preparing its application requesting that it be designated a major consuming area. If it is successful, it will mean that all poultry offered for sale here will receive inspection by USDA.

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"CORRESPONDENCE COURSES"

Did you know that the USDA Graduate School is now offering 15 Correspondence Courses?

If you need more information just write to:
The Registrar, Graduate School U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

AWARDS

J. A. Bybee, Texas Federal-State Supervisor and M.E. Walker, Asst. Federal-State Supervisor have each received a cash award of \$200.00 and a certificate of merit for sustained superior performance contributing to an interest in and acceptance of an effective grading program for poultry and eggs in Texas.

Verona Cannon, Cotton Branch received a certificate of merit and a \$200.00 cash award for outstanding efficiency.

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PERSONNEL-LY SPEAKING

HANK SUNDAHL of CO Division had a knee operation on September 15 to repair a damaged cartilage. He is improving steadily but must stay off his leg for some time.

When the Stork flies, it never fails to stop by the FO Division: on June 13 it was a boy, David Glenn, for BARBARA THOMPSON; And on July 10, a girl, Deborah Kay, for PAT KNUTSON.

MILDRED YEAGER of DO - ADP fell recently breaking her hip. She is convalescing at home; however, we hope that it won't be too long before she is back at work.

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Your USDA Club is making arrangements so that members may cash personal checks at Sun Drug Co., Hap Morse Bowling Lanes, and Merchandise Mart Stationary Store. The Hap Morse Bowling Lanes will also cash pay checks on pay-days only.

The USDA Club wishes to express its appreciation to Mrs. Edna Street, of the Document Control and Analysis Division of the Commodity Office, for allowing the USDA Club to purchase SMU-Notre Dame, Texas-Oklahoma, and Cotton Bowl New Year's Day tickets using her Cotton Bowl Bond option. By offering these tickets as prizes for donations received, the USDA Club has been able to raise much needed funds for their Treasury.

The USDA Club wishes to express its appreciation to Lloyd Walton and Leota Smith, of the Commodity Office, who were recent blood donors to a USDA Club member who is ill and in the hospital.

Lucky winners of the USDA Football tickets are as follows:

Margaret Hastings, Document Analysis & Control Division
CSS - Notre Dame-SMU.

Shirley Dove, Food Distribution Division - Texas-Oklahoma.



Your U.S.D.A. Club has made arrangements with the distributor of Fisher Peanuts to offer Cashews, Mixed Nuts and Peanuts for sale at substantial reduction in price to all members of the Club. Detailed memorandum will be distributed for your orders soon.